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Successors To Canadanovic Are Announced

Tanjug's announcement on 23 December that Dusan Alimpic and Jon Srbovan had been elected President and Secretary respectively of the provincial party organization broke the silence surrounding the "resignation" two weeks before of Mirko Canadanovic, party leader in the Vojvodina.

Major personnel changes usually are accompanied by reports in the media about the problems in the party, criticism of the old leadership, and statements by the new leadership to do better. Silence in this instance could be partially attributed to the caution with which the press is handling touchy political controversies. It, however, also may indicate continuing divisions in the Vojvodina Central Committee, including indecision as to how to handle the resignations in the press.

Neither of the two new men appears to be a pacesetter. At 51 years of age, Alimpic has a long party history behind him which stretches back to partisan activity during World War II. Since then, he has held various party posts in the Vojvodina and Serbian party organizations. Srbovan is a 42 year member of the Romanian minority and has a degree in agricultural engineering. His expertise in economic matters is no doubt desired at a time when the party faces serious problems in the economy.

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Trouble Brewing For Zagreb Party Leaders?

Participants in a meeting of the Zagreb Town Conference on 24 December apparently paid little attention to criticism aimed at them by Ivica Racan, member of the Executive Committee of the Croatian Central Committee. After a debate of several hours, Racan took the floor and said that he was not satisfied with the course of the debate because the speakers had failed to come to grips with the question of where the party had been during recent economic scandals which resulted in the resignation of the Mayor of Zagreb. He told the party body that they needed to assess more critically their own work and their influence on policy-making in Zagreb.

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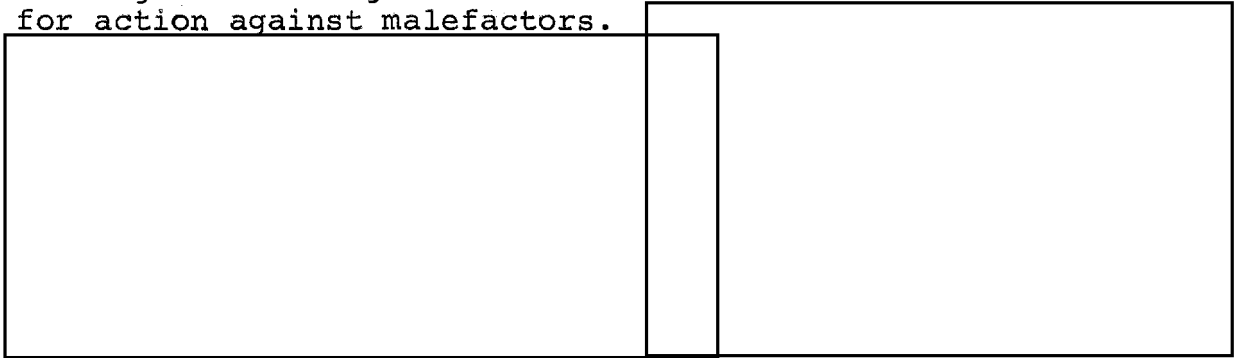
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According to the Tanjug report, "Racan did not succeed in provoking any significant polemics by this assessment." It would appear particularly risky for a party body to ignore warnings from a higher official in view of Tito's demand for action against malefactors.

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